Government in respect of particular essential commodities under pressure. The measures taken by the Government broadly include steps to increase the production of essential commodities, effective procurement and buffer stocking operations of foodgrains, strengthening of Public Distribution System, monitoring of prices and availability situation, strict enforcement of the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and other regulatory measures, and augmenting domestic supplies through imports, subject to overall constraints of foreign exchange.

Discount in Meals to Rural People in ITDC owned Restaurants and Hotels

90. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Tourism Development Corporation has announced 50 per cent discount in meals to rural people in the restaurants and hotels owned by it;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) the critria laid down for categorising and identifying the rural people;

(d) whether the rural people of one State would be able to enjoy the facility in another State; if so, how; and

(e) the steps taken|proposed to be taken to check misuse of the facility by urban people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI USHA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The scheme effective from 25-1-1991 is applicable to rural guests staying within a radius of 80 kms in the vicinity of the respective ITDC hotel|restaurant on establishing identity through an identity card|certificate, preferably with a photograph issued by the Village Pradhan and certified by the Sarpanch of the area. However, in the case of Hotels|Restaurants located within the Union Territory of Delhi, the distance restriction of 50 kms is not applicable, and any bonafide rural guest from anywhere in India can avail of this facility. In the case of family, the number of dependents who can avail of this facility will be limited to six members including the Head of the family. As per this scheme bonafide rural guests are entitled for a 50 per cent discount on specified meals, both vegetarian and non-vegetarian, in one of the specified Restaurants of each ITDC hotel on two days in a week i.e. on Thursday and Friday

(d) The scheme of discount on meals to rural guests in the restaurants of ITDC hotels is admissible irrespective of the State|Union Territory of residence of the rural guest subject to fulfilment of conditions as mentioned in part (b) and (c) above.

(e) One of the pre-conditions stipulated in the scheme is production of proof of identity by the rural guest in the form of identity card|certificate issued by the village Pradhan and certified by the Sarpanch of the area to establish his|her normal place of residence. This measure is expacted to check misuse of the facility by urban people.